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Preston Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1951

PRESTON.

Printed by E. Ambler, 37 Shepherd Street

Preston Rural District Council



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To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Preston Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1951, together with the vital statistics relative to that period.

For the second year in succession, alterations have been made to that section of the report dealing with vital statistics, in order that it shall conform to recognised presentation. In addition, a section on Meteorological Observations has been included for the first time. The effect of weather on the general health of the populace is often overlooked.

Referring to the vital statistics, the adverse trend which occurred last year continued in part. The crude birth-rate which at 12.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population was 2.0 below that for 1950, was in fact the lowest rate recorded since 1934, whilst the crude death-rate at 12.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population was the highest rate for 22 years, and has never been exceeded since 1920. The number of illegimate live births was double that of the previous year, and the neonatal mortality rate slightly higher than the rate for 1950. Fortunately, we are recompensed by a reduction in the Infant Mortality rate, the Stillbirth rate, and the death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. In addition, no one died from maternal causes, and not quite so many people died from cancer and heart disease.

For the twenty-second successive year, the Rural area was entirely free from Small pox. There was no case of Diphtheria, and only one case of Acute Poliomyelitis. The epidemic of Whooping Cough which had been prevalent in 1950 subsided early in 1951, and fewer persons contracted Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There was, however, a considerable increase in the number of notifications of Scarlet Fever and Measles, and Paratyphoid Fever returned after an absence of two years.

A careful study of the statistics as a whole reveals that the health of the district remained satisfactory during the year under review.

Principal legislation which came into force during 1951 is summarised in the text of the report, and once again I have confined comment on housing conditions prevailing in the Rural area, to that section of the report which presents housing statistics.

The work of the Department appears to increase from year to year, and 1951 was no exception. The District Inspectors were many times called upon to perform duties outside their usual operational sphere, but nevertheless a constant surveillance was maintained over the whole field of public health. Particular attention was devoted to the food supply of the Rural area and the process of distribution. Clean food is now a matter of prime importance, and the attention of the general public is constantly being drawn to this fact.

The adulteration rate of samples of food and drugs procured in the Rural area by the County Sampling Officers and examined at the County Laboratory showed a distinct improvement at 3.5 per cent as compared with 5.3 per cent in 1950, and was in fact the lowest rate for the past five years.

The pages following give some indication of the amount of work which has been undertaken by the personnel of the Health Department. I gratefully acknowledge the help received from the staff of the department, and the valuable collaboration received from Mr. Young and Mr. Collier.

In conclusion, I would once again like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

for the year 1951.

With the kind permission of Dr. V. Barocas, Director of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory, Moor Park, Preston, I submit extracts from his report on local meteorological conditions which prevailed during 1951.

The year 1951 was a wet year. The total rainfall reached 45.25 inches, an increase of 7.80 inches over the average rainfall for Preston. Rain fell in 220 days, that is 24 more days than the average. On the other hand, the intensity of rain was not very high as the greatest rainfall recorded in one day during the year was only 0.98 inches. The first three months of the year were wet, but they were followed by some months during which the precipitation was less than average. After a particularly dry October, the driest month of the year with 2.28 inches less rain than the average, November and December were very wet indeed. December with a total rainfall of 8.64 inches was the wettest December on record with 5.07 inches more than the average rainfall for this month.

During the year the longest dry spell was from May 29th to June 8th.

In the first eight months of the year the monthly mean of daily maximum and minimum temperature was lower than the average, while for the last four months of the year it was higher than the average, especially in November when it was 47.3 F., that is 3.6 F. higher than the average.

The highest temperature of the year, 75.4 F., was recorded on July 21st, while the lowest temperature, 23.8 F., was recorded on March 20th. The lowest temperature on the grass, 18.0 F., occurred on January 3rd. Ground frost. (30.4 F. or below) occurred on 72 nights in the year.

OTHER PHENOMENA. Snow fell on 16 days and showers of hail occurred on 17 days during the year. Thunder was heard on 11 days and gales occurred on 11 days, five of which were in December. During the year 86 days were foggy (visibility less than 1,100 yards) at the time of observation at 0900 G.M.T.

Details of Meteorological Observations of 1951 are given in the following tables:—

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE

Month	Highest Maximum Temp. . . Date		Lowest Minimum Temp. . . Date		Lowest Maximum Temp. . . Date		Highest Minimum Temp. . . Date	
	°F.		°F.		°F.		°F.	
January	... 49 ...	19	... 26 ...	29	... 34 ...	29	... 45 ...	21
February	... 50 ...	2	... 27 ...	14	... 39 ...	15	... 39 ...	2 & 5
March	... 53 ...	22	... 24 ...	4 & 20	... 37 ...	11	... 42 ...	23
April	... 63 ...	25	... 28 ...	11	... 45 ...	1	... 43 ...	26
May	... 67 ...	25	... 33 ...	8 & 11	... 47 ...	5	... 56 ...	24
June	... 74 ...	6	... 40 ...	8	... 56 ...	26	... 57 ...	14
July	... 75 ...	21 & 30	... 41 ...	15	... 58 ...	13	... 61 ...	22
August	... 72 ...	5	... 43 ...	16	... 58 ...	12	... 59 ...	3
September	... 71 ...	4	... 41 ...	29	... 59 ...	17	... 61 ...	5
October	... 66 ...	16	... 26 ...	23	... 46 ...	22	... 56 ...	2
November	... 57 ...	10 & 23	... 27 ...	26	... 42 ...	25	... 49 ...	9
December	... 54 ...	16	... 24 ...	11	... 38 ...	11	... 49 ...	5 & 16
Year	... 75.4 ...	21 July	... 23.8 ...	20 Mar.	... 33.7 ...	29 Jan.	... 61.5 ...	5 Sept.

RAINFALL AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Month	Total Rainfall Inches		No. of days				Wettest day				Vapour Pressure in mbs.		Relative Humidity % satur.	
			Rain Days	Wet Days			Fall		Date					
January	...	4.13	...	22	...	18	...	0.72	...	16	...	6.9	...	90.3
February	...	2.59	...	22	...	16	...	0.38	...	20	...	6.9	...	91.0
March	...	4.78	...	23	...	18	...	0.94	...	21	...	6.6	...	84.6
April	...	2.07	...	15	...	11	...	0.59	...	3	...	7.1	...	71.1
May	...	1.99	...	13	...	7	...	0.76	...	4	...	9.2	...	71.6
June	...	1.94	...	11	...	9	...	0.45	...	12	...	11.4	...	70.4
July	...	2.11	...	17	...	9	...	0.59	...	3	...	14.5	...	79.0
August	...	4.64	...	22	...	18	...	0.82	...	11	...	13.6	...	81.6
September	...	2.81	...	17	...	13	...	0.59	...	14	...	13.8	...	84.3
October	...	1.62	...	7	...	5	...	0.62	...	20	...	10.4	...	85.0
November	...	7.93	...	25	...	24	...	0.68	...	4	...	9.9	...	88.3
December	...	8.64	...	26	...	22	...	0.98	...	24	...	8.2	...	86.9
Year	...	45.25	...	220	...	170	...	0.98	...	24 Dec.	...	9.9	...	82.0

VISIBILITY at 0900 G.M.T.

Number of Days																				
Month	Dense Fog		Thick Fog		Fog		Mod. Fog		Mist or Haze		Poor Visi- bility		Mod. Visi- bility		Good Visi- bility		Very Good Vis.		Excel. Visi- bility	
January	...	1	...	1	...	5	...	6	...	7	...	11	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
February	...	1	...	2	...	3	...	9	...	2	...	9	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	0
March	...	0	...	1	...	2	...	5	...	4	...	17	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	0
April	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	2	...	14	...	2	...	11	...	0	...	0
May	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	19	...	4	...	6	...	0	...	0
June	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	2	...	19	...	4	...	4	...	0	...	0
July	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	2	...	22	...	0	...	6	...	0	...	0
August	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	5	...	12	...	3	...	5	...	3	...	0
September	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	11	...	2	...	7	...	6	...	2	...	2	...	0
October	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	11	...	2	...	11	...	4	...	0	...	0	...	1
November	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	5	...	5	...	11	...	6	...	1	...	1	...	0
December	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	12	...	6	...	7	...	4	...	0	...	1	...	0
Year	...	2	...	7	...	11	...	66	...	40	...	159	...	33	...	39	...	7	...	1

WEATHER Number of Days

Month	Snow or Sleet		Snow Lying at 0900 G.M.T.		Hail	Thunder heard		Fog at 0900 G.M.T.		Gale Wind- force 8 or above		Ground Frost		Air Frost		
January	...	2	...	4	...	1	...	0	...	13	...	1	...	9	...	8
February	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	1	...	15	...	1	...	12	...	12
March	...	5	...	1	...	1	...	0	...	8	...	1	...	16	...	14
April	...	4	...	0	...	6	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	9	...	3
May	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	5	...	0
June	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0
July	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0
August	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	0	...	0	...	0
September	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	11	...	1	...	0	...	0
October	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	2	...	13	...	0	...	3	...	3
November	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	6	...	2	...	5	...	1
December	...	3	...	0	...	5	...	1	...	13	...	5	...	13	...	9
Year	...	16	...	6	...	17	...	11	...	86	...	11	...	72	...	50

Physical Features of the Area.

The Rural District is largely a lowland area, mainly below 250 feet, lying largely to the north of the River Ribble, but with considerable extensions south of the river, south-west and east of Preston. In the extreme north of the district the land rises rapidly to 874 feet at Beacon Fell, and in the east heights of over a thousand feet are attained on the southern slopes of Longridge Fell. North of Preston the drainage is largely eastwards to the River Wyre, while the rest of the district drains directly or indirectly into the Ribble.

The solid geological formations represented in the district are the Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit, Bunter Sandstone and Keupur Marl. These formations are rarely seen at the surface, however, because they are buried beneath a thick cover of "drift" deposits. Apart from the valley alluvium of the rivers and streams and the raised terraces along the Ribble and Darwen, the "drift" is composed of glacial boulder clay, sand and gravel.

The latter occur only as impersistent patches on the boulder clay, such as that to the north-east of Goosnargh, or is exposed in the sides of the many stream valleys. Boulder clay covers most of the district, and in general gives rise to a heavy clay soil. The numerous marl pits which were dug many years ago to obtain material to lighten the soil are a characteristic feature of boulder clay areas. The heavy clay soils provide excellent pastures which support dairy herds, and arable farming is of lesser importance. Poultry farming is widespread, as it is throughout the whole of the Fylde area.

The solid rocks have little effect on the physical features of the area because of the thick drift cover. Over much of the area this thick cover renders it impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy the nature and structure of the underlying rocks unless borings are undertaken. In the extreme north and east of the district, however, the solid formations outcrop at the surface. These outcrops belong to the Carboniferous limestone and Millstone Grit formations. The former is the oldest formation represented in the district, but here it does not carry the massive limestone beds so characteristic of other areas, e.g., Clitheroe. It is composed of a thick series of shales with thin limestones, the Worston Shales and the Pendleside Limestone series which underlie the greater part of the parishes of Goosnargh, Whittingham and Houghton. Towards the top of the latter there is a rather thicker limestone bed, the Pendleside Limestone, which occurs on the northern flanks of Longridge Fell. The top of the Carboniferous Limestone is formed by the Lower Bowland Shales, which contains a fairly characteristic grit band, the Pendleside Grit. These occur on Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell. The Millstone Grit is represented by a series of grits and shales. The lowest beds are the Upper Bowland Shales, which are succeeded by the massive Pendle Grit. This latter forms the conspicuous features of Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell, and together with the overlying shales and grits, underlie the parishes of Hothersall, Ribchester and Dutton. Millstone Grit shales and grits are present beneath the "drift" in the southern part of the parish of Samlesbury, and the north-east part of Grimsargh parish. The grits in this area have not been tried as a source of water supply, so the potentiality of water bores is not known. Results from boring in grits vary considerably according to the nature of the grit and its openness of grain and extent of the jointing and fissuring.

West of the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit occurs the Triassic Bunter Sandstone, a fairly hard red, yellow or buff-coloured sandstone. The details of structure and the position of faults are only assumed, but the following picture has been obtained by the study of available bore records. The Bunter Sandstone is faulted against or overlies the more steeply dipping Carboniferous Limestone shales, and the Millstone Grit to the east and south-east. The sandstone dips gently to the north-west and occurs beneath the drift in the parishes of Barton, Woodplumpton, Lea, Hutton, Penwortham, Cuerdale, the south-west part of the parish of Grim-sargh and the north-west part of Samlesbury parish. It is affected by strong faults the exact positions of which are difficult to determine. The Bunter Sandstone is an excellent source of underground water, and there are several private water wells in Preston which draw on this source. It is probable that further supplies could be obtained north of Preston, but care would be needed in the siting of the wells.

Keuper Marl, thinly bedded, fine grained red marls with bands and patches of green-coloured marls and thin bands of fine grained sandstone or "skerries" are present beneath the boulder clay in the parishes of Longton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole and Farington. The beds dip north-westwards and are separated from the Bunter Sandstone to the north by a fault. Borings in Keuper Marl give little or no water, and that which is obtained is too highly mineralised to be of use for public supply.

General Statistics.

STATISTICS AND GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

- (1) Area in acres—50,318.
- (2) Population (Census 1931)—27,626.
- (3) Registrar-General's estimate of home population, 1951—39,320.
- (4) Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)—7,138.
- (5) Number of inhabited houses end of 1951 according to Rate Books—11,429.
- (6) Rateable value—£228,021.
- (7) Sum represented by a penny rate—£918 (31st March, 1951, estimated).

The social conditions generally do not alter, nor do the occupations of the resident population. The production of milk and poultry farming occupy important positions, and there is considerable industry in market gardening. The employment available is of a healthy character. There are four cotton mills, two paper mills and two small iron foundries in the area.

POPULATION OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

The issue of estimates of civilian population by the Registrar-General was discontinued in 1950. The Registrar-General's estimate of home population of the Rural District as at the 30th June, 1951, was 39,320, an increase of 660 over the estimate of 38,660 for the previous year.

Estimates of home population include members of the armed forces stationed in the area and merchant seamen whether at home or overseas, but exclude members of the armed forces stationed outside England and Wales and non-civilians of foreign countries, Dominions, etc., temporarily in the country.

The natural increase in the population of the Rural District, i.e., excess of births over deaths, was 25 compared with 105 in 1950. The number of persons per acre was 0.77 and the number of acres per person 1.28.

VITAL STATISTICS

PERIOD				LIVE BIRTHS		DEATHS (all causes)		STILL-BIRTHS		MATERNAL MORTALITY		INFANT MORTALITY			
												TOTAL		NEO-NATAL	
				No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Live Births
Year ...	1951	...		498	*12.7	473	*12.0	10	20	—	—	12	24	11	22
Year ...	1950	...		567	14.7	461	11.9	18	31	1	1.71	15	26	12	21
	1949	...		580	15.2	401	10.5	8	14	3	5.10	13	22	—	—
	1948	...		546	14.4	361	9.5	10	17	—	—	19	34	—	—
	1947	...		630	17.1	426	11.5	16	24	1	1.54	27	42	—	—
	1946	...		559	15.2	428	11.7	14	24	—	—	27	48	—	—
Average 5 years : 1946 — 1950				—	15.3	—	11.1	—	22	—	1.70	—	35	—	—

* Adjusted (live birth-rate ; comparability factor, 1.15) = 14.6 per 1,000
(death-rate ; comparability factor, 0.95) = 11.4 per 1,000

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Live Births. The statistics with regard to both births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers.

According to the Registrar-General, the total births registered in or belonging to the Rural area during the year 1951 numbered 498 (males 260, females 238); 69 less than in the year 1950.

The live birth-rate for the Rural District, calculated on the estimated home population, corresponds to 12.7 per 1,000. Last year the rate was 14.7. The adjusted birth-rate, using the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar-General, is 14.6. The live birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1951 was 15.5. That for 126 County Boroughs and great towns, including London, was 17.3.

The sex distribution of the children born alive during 1951 is shown below. For comparative purposes, the figures for each of the previous post-war years are also given:—

Year.		Males.		Females.		Total.
1946	.....	299	...	260	...	559
1947	.....	319	...	311	...	630
1948	.....	289	...	257	...	546
1949	.....	281	...	299	...	580
1950	.....	275	...	292	...	567
1951	.....	260	...	238	...	498

The excess of births over deaths in the Rural District in each of the 10 years, 1942-1951, is shown below:—

EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS

Year 1942	...	...	...	159	Year 1947	...	...	...	204
,, 1943	...	...	...	206	,, 1948	...	...	...	185
,, 1944	...	...	...	255	,, 1949	...	...	...	179
,, 1945	...	...	...	174	,, 1950	...	...	...	106
,, 1946	...	...	...	131	,, 1951	...	...	...	25

It will be seen that figure for 1951 has fallen drastically, and is well below the average figure of 162. In fact, the live birth-rate at 12.7 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, is the lowest since 1934.

Illegitimate Live Births. The number of births of illegitimate children belonging to the Rural District and registered during 1951 compared with that for each of the previous post-war years is shown overleaf:—

Year.	No. of illegitimate live births.	Decrease or increase on previous year.	Percentage of total live births.
1946	23 ...	—9 ...	4.1
1947	17 ...	—6 ...	2.7
1948	25 ...	+8 ...	4.5
1949	19 ...	—6 ...	3.2
1950	8 ...	—11 ...	1.4
1951	16 ...	+8 ...	3.2

The number of illegitimate live births at 16 was two below the average for the post-war years, but this cannot be regarded with satisfaction, as the above table reveals that the 1951 figure is double that of the previous year, and furthermore, the tendency in the Administrative County as a whole during the post-war years has been one of continual decline. The above table shows that this is not true of the Rural District.

Stillbirths. The number of registered stillbirths assigned to the Rural District during 1951 was 10 (4 males, 6 females), or 8 less than in the previous year. The resultant rate was 20 per 1,000 total births. Expressed per 1,000 of the estimated home population, the Rural District rate was 0.50 compared with a rate for England and Wales of 0.36.

Deaths. The net deaths actually belonging to the Preston Rural District for the year 1951 numbered 473 (males 241, females 232). This total includes deaths of persons belonging to the Rural District who died outside the District, and is exclusive of deaths (mainly in the Whittingham Mental Hospital and Ribchester Institution) of those persons not belonging to the Rural District.

The death-rate for the Rural District, calculated on a home population of 39,320, is 12.0 per 1,000. Last year the death-rate was 11.9. The average death-rate for the five years 1946-1950 was 11.1.

Once again the Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death-rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution, to make every district comparative from the mortality point of view, with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. The adjusted death-rate using the comparability factor is 11.4 per 1,000, as against last year's adjusted rate of 11.3.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1951 was 12.5 per 1,000 home population. For the 126 County Boroughs and great towns, including London, the rate was 13.4.

Principal Causes of Death. The relative importance of the principal causes of death is shown in the following table:—

Cause of death.	No. of deaths.	1951
		Percentage of total deaths.
Heart disease (all forms)	194	41.0
Cancer (including Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia)	73	15.4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	59	12.5
Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Influenza	49	10.3
Other circulatory disease	13	2.8
Tuberculosis (all forms)	10	2.1
Nephritis and nephrosis	7	1.5

Heart Diseases. In accordance with the new Short List introduced by the Registrar-General deaths from the various forms of heart disease, previously given as a single total under the general heading "heart disease", were sub-divided in 1950 into the three groups—"coronary disease, angina", "hypertension with heart disease" and "other heart disease". The deaths classified to these causes and assigned to the Rural District in 1951, together with the equivalent mortality rates, are set out below:—

Classification.	No. of deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated home population.	
Coronary disease, angina	52	...	1.32
Hypertension with heart disease	20	...	0.50
Other heart disease	122	...	3.10
Heart disease — all forms	194	...	4.93

The 194 fatalities from heart disease represented an increase of 6 over the total for the previous year, the resultant rate of 4.93 being 0.07 per 1,000 of population above that for 1950.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS, INCLUDING NEOPLASMS OF LYMPHATIC AND HAEMATOPOIETIC TISSUES

This title embraces items 10-15 inclusive of the new Short List of 36 Causes of Death as set out on Page 16. It is not strictly comparable with the general title of "cancer" used in reports previous to 1950, by virtue of the inclusion in it of deaths from Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia which were excluded from the latter title.

There were 73 deaths classifiable to malignant neoplasms and assignable to the Rural District during 1951, this figure representing 15.4 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes. The resultant mortality rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population was 1.85 compared with last year's rate of 1.99.

VASCULAR LESIONS OF NERVOUS SYSTEM

This title in the new Short List of 36 Causes of Death replaces the heading "intra-cranial vascular lesions" of the superseded Short List. No authoritative guidance has been received as to the comparability of the two groups of causes, but a consideration of the detailed lists of the Fifth and Sixth Revisions indicates that several other and ill-defined lesions affecting the central nervous system, excluded from the earlier title, have been included in "vascular lesions of the nervous system." The latter title would therefore appear to be wider in scope than that used during the previous decade.

This condition, like heart disease and cancer, is one which principally affects older people. 59 deaths occurred through this condition, representing 12.5 per cent of the total deaths.

PNEUMONIA, BRONCHITIS AND INFLUENZA

49 deaths were assigned to these causes—Pneumonia 10, Bronchitis 17, and Influenza 22). The number of deaths from Pneumonia was the same as last year, Bronchitis showed a reduction of 3 compared with 1950, but with Influenza, 20 more deaths were recorded than in the previous year.

As regards Pneumonia deaths, those occurring under 4 weeks of age are excluded, and are included in "other defined and ill-defined diseases".

TUBERCULOSIS—Respiratory

The deaths assigned to the Rural District in 1951 as due to tuberculosis of the respiratory system numbered 7, or 3 less than in the previous year, and were equivalent to a death-rate of 0.17 per 1,000 of the estimated home population. The rate for the previous year was 0.26. The rate for 1951 is well below the average for the past 10 years, and is the next lowest rate on record. In 1934, a rate of 0.12 was recorded.

Non-respiratory—Three deaths were recorded equivalent to a rate of 0.07 per 1,000 of the estimated home population. The mortality rate for 1950 was 0.05.

The following table shows the net deaths actually belonging to the Rural District for the year 1951, distinguishing males and females, and the causes of death agree with the Short List of 36 Causes of Death based on the Sixth Revision of International Lists (introduced 1950).

Causes of Death.					Males.	Females.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	4	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	1	2
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	5	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	7	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	18	24
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	18	41
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	39	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	9	11
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	55	67
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	7	6
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	9	13
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	6
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	13	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	2	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	3	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	32	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	5	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	3	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—
ALL CAUSES					241	232

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of Infants under the age of one year numbered 12; males 7, females 5. Three less than last year.

Six of the Infant deaths in 1951 were due to congenital debility, malformation, and premature birth, representing 50% of the total Infant deaths, as against 73% in 1950.

The mortality rate calculated per 1,000 live births was 24, as compared with at rate of 26 in 1950 and 22 in 1949.

The Infant death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1951 was 29.6. For the 126 County Borough and great towns, including London, the rate was 33.9.

The following table analyses the causes of death in 1951 of Infants at stated age periods:—

Causes of Death.	DAYS											MONTHS											Total Deaths under one year
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	14	21-28	28-56	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-12		
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth, &c...	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Broncho-Pneumonia
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea
Other causes	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	6
Totals	...	8	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	12

Of the total deaths at all ages, infant deaths in 1951 formed 2.53 per cent.

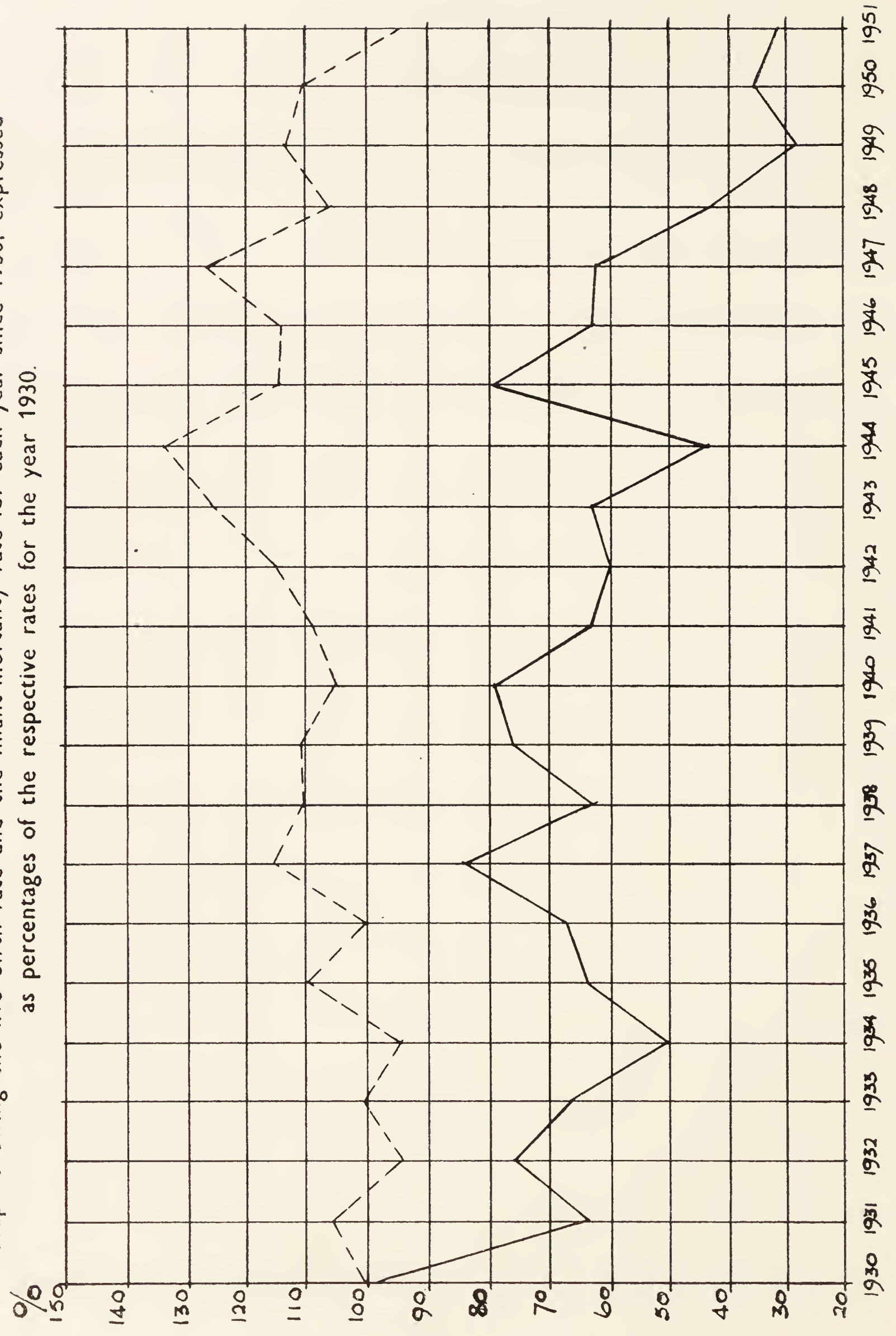
Neo-Natal Mortality. For the second year now the Registrar General has supplied particulars of neo-natal mortality (deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age) assignable to the Rural area. According to the information received, the number of deaths of infants occurring under the age of four weeks and assignable to the Rural District in 1951 was 11 amounting to 91 per cent. of all infant deaths. The resultant rate was 22 per 1,000 total births. In 1950, this rate was 21 and the number of deaths 12, amounting to 80 per cent. of all infant deaths.

Maternal Mortality. There were no maternal deaths during 1951. Last year one death was recorded. Only 5 deaths have occurred from maternal causes during the past six years.

LIVE BIRTH RATE :

INFANT MORTALITY RATE : _____

Graph showing the live birth rate and the infant mortality rate for each year since 1930, expressed as percentages of the respective rates for the year 1930.



YEAR

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases

Infectious cases are removed to the Deepdale Isolation Hospital, Preston. The transport arrangements are most excellent and expeditious. Immediately a case is removed, the Sanitary Inspector carries out disinfection of the house. There is no loss of time.

SMALLPOX

The area was not invaded by smallpox, and for this immunity one is grateful.

SCARLET FEVER

A considerable increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in 1951, 58 cases being reported as compared with 33 in the previous year. The disease was of a mild type and complications were the exception. The incidence of the outbreaks centred in the first six months of the year, and also in November and December. The distribution involved numerous townships, but the principal areas affected were Goosnargh, Lea and Penwortham. There were no deaths. Thirty-eight out of the fifty-eight notified cases went into Isolation Hospital. Fifty-five of the cases were confined to children.

DIPHTHERIA

This disease was only conspicuous by its absence. Only four cases of diphtheria have occurred in the Rural area during the past five years, and there have been no deaths. Truly remarkable if one compares this period with the five year period 1937-41, in which 82 cases were recorded resulting in 10 deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH

Incidence of this disease was limited to 49 cases, a reduction of 60 compared with 1950.

MEASLES

There was a substantial increase in the notification of cases of Measles during the year, but fortunately there were no deaths. The 328 cases notified were 147 in excess of the figure for the previous year. Nearly all the cases occurred in the first six months of the year, and though all Parishes were affected, incidence was highest in the parishes of Farington, Goosnargh, Lea, Longton and Penwortham.

DYSENTERY

Thirty-three notifications were received; all from the Whittingham Mental Hospital.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

One case of Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) was notified. The patient, a boy aged 8 years, was admitted to hospital, and subsequently recovered. In conformity with procedure, a detailed report was submitted to the County Medical Officer of Health.

ENTERIC FEVER GROUP

Four notifications of Paratyphoid Fever were received during the year. Three households were involved. The first two cases were reported on the 13th September, 1951, from two households in the same Township. In both these cases, notification was belated.

Case No. 1 (housewife, aged 32 years). The date of onset could not be determined. Admitted to hospital on the 14th September, 1951. She had a case history of Rectal Haemorrhage in February and March, 1951, which cleared up with medical treatment, but recurred towards the end of June.

Case No. 2 (housewife, aged 47 years). Date of Onset. 23rd August, 1951. Admitted to hospital on the 31st August, 1951. The patient had returned from a Mediterranean cruise on the 18th August, 1951. It appeared that all meals had been taken on the boat with the exception of meals at Istanbul and Athens on the 9th and 11th August, 1951 respectively. The matter was referred to the Ministry of Health and it was subsequently learnt that two other cases of Paratyphoid Fever had occurred amongst the passengers from the same ship.

Case No. 3. (male, aged 44 years—retailer in fruit and vegetables). Notified: 24th September, 1951. Date of Onset: 5th September, 1951. Admitted to hospital: 22nd September, 1951. The result of examination of faeces specimens from members of the family revealed a second case, the patient's youngest son, aged 15 years. This information was received on the 5th October, 1951. The son gave no history of illness and received treatment at home.

The investigation of all these cases was particularly directed towards the following matters:—water supply, food supply, excrement and refuse disposal, visitors to the household, and the journeys made by members of the families concerned.

The food supply in all cases was from several sources, but none could be incriminated. Bearing in mind the part played in the past by milk, ice-cream, duck eggs and bread as vehicles in the spread of Paratyphoid Fever, detailed enquiries were made about these. However, the source of infection in each case could not be determined.

Enquiries revealed contacts far afield, and in each case the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned was notified, but all the contacts were in good health.

About this time, five cases of Paratyphoid Fever occurred in the Preston County Borough area, two in the Fulwood U.D.C. area, and one in the Walton-le-Dale U.D.C. area, which adjoin the Rural District, but transfer of information disclosed no possible connection between the R.D.C. cases and those occurring in the areas of the three neighbouring authorities, neither was there any connection between the cases occurring only in the Rural area.

The Group Pathologist of the Preston Royal Infirmary reported that in Cases No. 1 and 2, *Salmonella paratyphi* B. had been isolated and belonged to Vi-phage Type Taunton. In Case No. 3, the *Salmonella paratyphi* B. belonged to Vi-phage Type 1.

It will be appreciated that this short account of the three cases gives little idea of the amount of work entailed in investigations of this type.

Notifications. The table below shows the numbers of cases of infectious and other notifiable diseases notified during the year 1951 after corrections subsequently made either by notifying medical practitioners or by the medical superintendent of the local infectious diseases hospital:—

**Notification of Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases (after correction)
for the year ended 31st December, 1951, analysed by age.**

“ Notifiable ” Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.											Total Deaths	Hospital	
	Total Cases at all ages.	Age Periods—Years.											Total cases removed to hospital from the district	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to district
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 & over	Age un- known			
Scarlet Fever... ...	58	...	2	13	33	7	2	1	...	...	...	...	38	...
Paratyphoid Fever ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	3	...
Measles 	328	11	54	98	156	4	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough ...	49	5	12	15	14	..	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia 	17	1	3	...	...	...	1	4	3	5	...	10	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Dysentery 	33	...	...	...	...	...	3	8	15	6	1	...	33	...
Erysipelas 	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...
Food Poisoning ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	495	17	71	127	205	11	13	18	21	11	1	10	78	1

The township distribution of specified notifiable diseases is set out in tabular form for the year 1951, and for comparison the totals for the preceding four years are given:—

Townships.	Scarlet Fever		Enteric Fever		Diphtheria		Erysipelas	
	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.
Barton ...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Broughton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Farington ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	1	1
Goosnargh ...	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Haighton ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lea ...	11	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Little Hoole ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Longton ...	6	4	2	2	...	...	...	...
Much Hoole ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Penwortham ...	16	9	2	1	...	...	...	...
Ribchester ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Samlesbury ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whittingham ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
1951 TOTAL ...	58	38	4	3	...	...	2	1
1950 TOTAL ...	33	27	...	...	1	1	2	...
1949 TOTAL ...	89	69	...	...	...	...	5	...
1948 TOTAL ...	46	40	1	...	...	...	7	...
1947 TOTAL ...	32	19	1	...	3	1	4	...

TUBERCULOSIS

The Scheme for the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis in the administrative County is administered by the Lancashire County Council and the Manchester Regional Hospital Board respectively.

A number of dispensaries are provided for the diagnosis of the disease, staffed by consultant Tuberculosis Officers and Tuberculosis Health Visitors. These dispensaries work in close association with the Sanatoria, and serve a valuable purpose in the main essence of supervision of patients after their discharge therefrom.

The Dispensary for patients residing in the Rural District is situated at 12, Walton's Parade, Preston.

Notification of Tuberculosis in the Preston Rural District is satisfactory and complete.

The first table below gives in certain specified age groups, the male and female notified cases of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis in the year 1951, together with the deaths therefrom.

The second table gives a comparison with the previous 5 years, but excludes age distribution.

Age Periods. Years	NEW Cases.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 ...	I	I	...	I	...	...	...	I
5 ...	...	...	I	I	...	...	...	...
10 ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
15 ...	I	I	..	2	...	...	...	...
20 ..	2	2	I	..	...	...	...	...
25 ...	...	I	I	.	I	I	...	I
35 ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 ...	5	...	...	...	I	...	I	...
55 ...	3	I	...	...	I	I	...	...
65 ...	...	..	...	...	...	I	...	..
75 and upwards	I	..	..	...	I	...	...	...
Totals ...	13	8	5	4	4	3	I	2
	21		9		7		3	

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1951	13	8	5	4	4	3	1	2
1950	14	11	2	5	6	4	—	2
1949	21	11	3	6	4	4	2	3
1948	14	9	3	2	5	2	1	1
1947	15	4	4	10	6	4	1	2
1946	20	21	4	12	7	9	1	2

National Assistance Act, 1948

Section 47.

Number of applications made during the year under Sub-section 3—Nil.

Number of Orders made Nil.

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. An Act to amend Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, and came into force one month after the passing of the Act.

It enables the court or a justice to make an order under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for the removal of a person to a hospital or other place without first giving that person notice of the application for removal as required by sub-section 7 of that section, if both the medical officer of health and another registered medical practitioner certify that he should be removed without delay.

Experience of the working of Section 47 of the Act of 1948 has shown that there are cases where a person will not consent to removal and the delay of seven days before his removal can be ordered is prejudicial to him. The period of detention under such an order is limited to three weeks, but during that period the appropriate authority can take steps under the normal procedure of Section 47 to obtain an order for detention for the maximum period of three months provided for by Sub-section 4 of that section.

SCHOOLS

The total number of schools in the Rural Area is 32.

Periodical inspections were made during the year for sanitary defects.

A number of defects were found to exist, and these were brought to the notice of the Divisional Education Authority.

NEW LEGISLATION

The following legislation, inter alia, came into force during 1951 except where otherwise stated:—

The Pet Animals Act, 1951 (comes into force 1st April, 1952).

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951 (with Regulations).

Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951.

The Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1951.

Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Buildings) Regulations, 1951.

Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Amendment Regulations, 1951.

The Food Standards (Ice-cream) Order, 1951.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. The major functions of the Rural District Council during 1951 in connection with milk supply related to the inspection of dairies registered by the Council, the inspection of milk vans and carts, the registration of milk distributors, the licensing of dealers in Special Designation milk, and the routine sampling of milk from producer-retailers and milk distributors operating in the Rural area. Every effort was devoted to constant vigilance over the purity of the milk consumed by the inhabitants of this area.

At the 31st December, 1951, there were 37 registered milk distributors operating in the area compared with 31 in the previous year. The number of dairies on the register (not being dairy farms) was 10. Thirty-seven visits were made to dairies, and generally the standard was found to be satisfactory.

In addition, and as far as unofficial records show, there were 98 producer-retailers operating in the Rural Area.

The following dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) were issued during the period under review:—

(i) **The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.**

Tuberculin Tested Milk	39
Accredited Milk	Nil

(ii) **The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949.**

Pasteurised Milk	44
Sterilised Milk	9

There was no refusal or revocation of a licence for graded milk during the year.

Twenty samples of milk were taken, and subjected to the minit test for the presence of dirt, and all were found to be clean. Forty-eight samples were taken for the Bacterial and Methylene Blue Reductase tests. Thirty-three were satisfactory and fifteen unsatisfactory. Nine samples were taken in the district for the presence of tubercle bacilli, and one sample was found to be positive. Nine samples of pasteurised milk were taken, and subjected to the Phosphotase test. One sample was found to be insufficiently heat treated.

In all cases of unsatisfactory samples responsible persons were notified.

In addition to the above, two notifications of tuberculosis milk were forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, who arranged for veterinary inspections to be carried out at the farms concerned.

Prior to this, notices restraining Sale of Milk had been served on the occupiers concerned by this Authority. Copies of such notices were immediately sent to the Area Milk Officer of the Ministry of Food.

As a result of the investigations of the Divisional Veterinary Inspector, one cow was reported for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

CLEAN FOOD

Over the country as a whole, the number of cases of food poisoning reported during 1951 was considerable, and for every case reported, it can be readily assumed that two others fail to find their way to the official records. The questions may be asked "What is being done to restrict the alarming growth of food poisoning"? "Are we sufficiently concerned about the campaign for cleaner food"? Fortunately, only two cases occurred in the Rural area as compared with eight in the previous year. Ministry of Food Circular M.F. 12/49 however recommends the arrangement of lectures for Food Traders and their employees, lectures for the general public, exhibitions, formation of Clean Food Guilds, and the formulation of Local Codes of Practice.

This is a matter which has received serious consideration from time to time, but the opinion formed at the outset, that little would be gained by such arrangements, still persists. The standard of cleanliness which prevails in all food premises situate in this area is high, and the scattered nature of the Parishes of the Rural area, some of which have no centre, creates an obvious difficulty. There is, of course, no perfect formula of action to be taken, and each authority must adopt the method which appears to be the most efficient for their particular area, and in this respect, the personal, diplomatic approach by the District Inspector has served the Rural area well.

154 visits were made to food premises during the year, and inspections were also made of delivery vans. Little cause for complaint could be found. In one instance, a delivery van containing bread was inspected, and several holes over the wheel arch in the interior of the van were noticed. The owner was advised to have these holes sealed, so as to prevent dust and dirt gaining access to the interior of the van. He was most concerned when this was pointed out to him, and promptly had the work carried out.

A further instance of complaint was in the case of Ice-cream manufacturing premises. Samples of ice-cream were taken, and the results were bad. The owner agreed to stop production immediately, carry out structural repairs to the premises, and dismantle the entire production apparatus, in order that it could be thoroughly cleaned. Subsequent samples proved to be satisfactory.

In both these instances, the District Inspector concerned used tact, and sought by every possible means to stimulate the co-operative attitude of the person with whom he was dealing. The result in each case was admirable. The law is only a substitute for failure in the field of diplomatic approach.

Much attention is directed towards the food trader, his premises, and the staff he employs, which is quite right, but this must not be allowed to obscure the danger of food contamination in the household. No doubt the majority of housewives are scrupulously clean, but cleanliness is not the complete answer. Such precautionary measures as fly-proofing the food store must be introduced, and propaganda in this direction, on a national basis through the medium of the radio and television would I am sure, have beneficial results.

Food Shops. The total number of shops registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 is 115. Ninety of these premises are registered for the

manufacture and sale or storage and sale of ice-cream. This figure includes 14 new registrations during the year. Eighty-eight retailers sell pre-packed ice-cream manufactured outside the district. The increase in registration has been phenomenal since the war.

Sampling of Ice Cream. Thirteen samples of ice-cream were taken, and submitted to bacteriological tests. As a result of the tests, these samples were placed in the following grades:—

Grade I	...	...	...	...	8	satisfactory.
Grade II	...	...	...	...	4	fair.
Grade III	...	...	...	...	—
Grade IV	...	...	...	...	1	bad.

Every endeavour was made by visits, advice and admonition to encourage the production of a clean and satisfactory product.

Hawkers' Vehicles were inspected during the course of their rounds. They were generally satisfactory.

Slaughter-Houses, Etc. The one slaughter-house, and one knacker's yard in the area were inspected at frequent intervals during the year, and on the whole, the premises were well run:

Slaughtering. Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 698 notices of intention to slaughter were received, all of which were in respect of permits granted by the Food Control Committee for home consumption and not for sale.

Condemnation of Food unfit for human consumption. The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption was 2 cwts. 1 qr. 24 lbs. 4 ozs. A detailed list is contained in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

The following table shows the numbers of certain classes of animals killed in the Rural area during 1951, together with the numbers and the results of the inspections carried out. The number of pigs killed include "Self-suppliers" pigs known to have been slaughtered, but there were, no doubt, many in addition which were not brought to the notice of the local authority.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	698
Number inspected	6
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis

REPORT ON OUTBREAK OF FOOD POISONING

A notification was received on the 7th August, 1951, of a case of suspected food poisoning at Penwortham. The patient, a boy aged 3 years, had developed a high temperature on the 27th July, and subsequently suffered from diarrhoea with traces of blood in the stool. The doctor was called in and a faeces sample sent to the Preston Royal Infirmary for examination. The subsequent report revealed that the condition was food poisoning, and the causative agent *Salmonella Typhi* Murium.

Immediately notification of the case was received by the Local Authority on the 7th August, detailed enquiries were started, but the time lag between the date of onset and notification made recollection of meals difficult, and the food responsible could not be determined. Further faeces specimens were taken, and the patient's elder brother, aged 5 years, was found to be suffering from the same complaint.

Though the attack was mild in character, positive reports were still being received on the 4th September.

SAMPLING—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Samples were taken by the Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department, which is the authority responsible for the administration of the Act in this respect. Given below are the particulars of the sampling and the results.

A total of 308 samples was obtained; 226 were of milk (this total includes 4 Channel Islands Milk), and the 82 others comprised:—

3 Olive Oil	2 Glycerin and Borax
3 Cheese	4 Camphorated Oil
6 Cooking Fat	1 Camphorated Oil and Mustard Oil
1 Baking Powder	2 Barley
2 Oatmeal	2 Treacle
1 Mixed Vegetables Canned	2 Cocoa
2 Carrots Canned	2 Jam
2 Epsom Salts	1 Cream
2 Lemon Cheese	1 Double Cream
2 Salt	2 Tea
7 Butter	2 Sugar
6 Margarine	2 Compound Liquorice
2 Ice Cream	3 Lard
2 Mustard Compound	1 Marmalade
1 Boric Acid	1 Castor Oil
2 Compound Syrup of Figs	1 Synthetic Cream
2 Custard Powder	2 Fruit Canned
1 Pudding Mixture Sweetened	1 British Sherry
2 Luncheon Meat Canned	1 British Wine—Port Style

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

Sample.	Result of Analysis	Action Taken.
1 Formal Milk.	Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.8 per cent of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned.
1 Formal Milk.	Deficient of 3.5 per cent solids-not-fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 4.6 per cent of extraneous water.	Same Vendor. Farm visited and further samples obtained.
1 Formal Milk.	Deficient of 4.1 per cent solids-not-fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 3.6 per cent of extraneous water.	
1 Informal Milk.	Deficient of 1.1 per cent solids-not-fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 2.3 per cent of extraneous water.	Same Vendor. Cautioned and further samples obtained. Farm also visited.
1 Informal Milk.	Deficient of 6.4 per cent solids-not-fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 7.3 per cent of extraneous water.	
1 Formal Milk.	Deficient of 5.3 per cent. solids-not-fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 4 per cent. of extraneous water.	Same Vendor. Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 Formal Milk.	Deficient of 4.7 per cent solids-not-fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 3.1 per cent of extraneous water.	
1 Camphorated Oil.	Deficient of 23 per cent of the minimum amount of camphor.	Formal sample obtained.
1 Camphorated Oil.	Deficient of 24.2 per cent of the minimum percentage of camphor.	Prosecution Vendor fined £5 and £4.4.0 costs.
1 Jam.	Deficient of 0.2 per cent solids-not-fat	No action taken.
1 Formal Milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.3 per cent of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.

**PERCENTAGE OF ADULTERATION OF SAMPLES
OF FOOD AND DRUGS.**

Year	Total No. of samples	No. of adulterated samples	Percentage of adulteration
1947	311	22	7.0
1948	265	10	3.7
1949	304	34	11.1
1950	282	15	5.3
1951	308	11	3.5

Water Supplies.

The four major sources of water distribution in this rural area are:—

- a. The Preston Corporation.
- b. The Fulwood Urban District Council.
- c. The Fylde Water Board.
- d. The Manchester Corporation (Thirlmere).

These supplies are controlled by both chemical and bacteriological tests and analyses are periodically made. Results of analyses are set out hereafter.

The townships south of the Ribble are supplied by the Preston Corporation and Manchester Corporation. North Ribble townships receive Fylde, Fulwood and Preston water.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the water situation in the several Townships. Where houses are not receiving a laid-on supply, the explanation is, the non-supplied premises are situated a very long way from the mains:—

Parish	No. of houses newly connected to public mains supply during 1951		From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, <i>e.g.</i> wells, springs, etc.	
			Direct to houses		By means of standpipe			
	Existing houses	New houses	No. of dwelling houses	Estimtd. No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population
Barton	3	324	1050	...	...	18	61
Broughton	155	503	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale	9	38	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	11	...	21	70	...	...	47	147
Farington	4	1267	3946	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh	1	231	640	...	...	112	466
Grimsargh	253	801	...	...	...	...
Haighton	63	200	...	...	4	14
Hothersall	4	37	120	...	...	4	12
Hutton	1	399	1370	...	...	...	...
Lea	20	1561	4562	...	...	12	36
Little Hoole	224	680	...	...	...	...
Longton	31	1184	3825	...	...	...	...
Much Hoole	228	688	...	...	2	6
Penwortham	65	3568	11219	...	...	...	...
Ribchester	1	430	1368	...	...	37	118
Samlesbury	332	926	...	...	17	60
Whittingham...	346	4550	...	...	44	132
Woodplumpton	...	1	454	1546	...	...	46	166
TOTAL Whole District	11	131	11086	38102	...	...	343	1218

Submitted below is a table shewing water consumption per head of population over the past two years in the different supply areas.

Area of Supply				Sept. 1949	March 1950	Sept. 1950	March 1951	Sept. 1951
				<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>
Longton & Penwortham	...			27.02	30.02	31.03	32.21	32.11
Farington	...	...	...	26.43	27.01	27.09	25.55	26.78
Lea	...	...	...	27.79	26.79	28.27	26.24	28.22
Samlesbury	...	...	...	46.27	47.26	37.10	30.64	46.36
Ribchester & Hothersall	...			23.27	21.19	18.87	20.47	19.13

The number of dwelling houses with piped supplies direct from mains is now 11,086.

The approximate number of dwelling houses without a piped supply direct from mains is 343.

Parts of the Townships of Goosnargh and Dutton are without a piped supply, but steps are being taken to remedy this.

Population supplied from public water main direct to houses is approximately 38,102 of a population of 39,320.

Analyses of Water Supplies.

I have been supplied with the following results of examinations of water supplies from the Fylde Water Board, Preston Corporation, Manchester Corporation and Fulwood Urban District Council.

FYLDE WATER

The following reports are relative to (a) Raw water, (b) Water going into supply where treatment is installed:—

Laboratory, Stocks Reservoir, Slaidburn

Results of Bacteriological Analysis:

Water Stocks—Raw.
Where sample taken ... Tap—Filter House.
pH value of sample... 6.95.

Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastrel agar.	No. of colonies per m.l. of water.
in 3 days at 22° C.	44
in 2 days at 37° C.	6

Probable number of coli-aerogenes
per 100 m.l. of water (McCrary's tables) 14.

2nd Sample.

Water Stocks—Filtered.
Where sample taken ... P.H. Flow Channel.
pH value of sample... 8.6.

Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastrel agar.	No. of colonies per m.l. of water.
in 3 days at 22° C.	36
in 2 days at 37° C.	1

Probable number of coli-aerogenes
per 100 m.l. of water (McCrary's tables) 0

Remarks:—Before chloramination.

Result of Chemical Analysis of Raw and Filtered Waters.

Manchester Corporation,
Waterworks Laboratory.

Source: Stocks Filtration Plant, Fylde Water Board.

Lab. No.	Source
1466	Raw Water, Stocks.
1467	Filtered Water, Stocks.

Remarks:

1466. Faintly hazy light-brown coloured water with a few particles of sediment.

1467. Clear water free from sediment.

Lab. No	...	...	...	...	...	1466	1467
pH value	...	...	...	...	...	6.8	7.4

Analysis	Parts per Million	
Total solids dried at		
100° C.	66.8	76.8
180° C.	64.8	71.6
Total Calcium as Ca	11.0	15.4
Nitrates as N ²	0.12	0.09
Phosphates as P	Nil	Nil
Silica as SiO ²	4.0	3.5
Chlorides as Cl ²	9.5	9.5
Free Acidity as CO ²	5.0	1.5
Free and Saline Ammonia as NH ³	0.026	0.024
Albuminoid Ammonia as NH ³	0.108	0.044
Oxygen absorbed test:		
4 hrs. at 27° C.	3.34	0.80
Hardness as CaCO ³ :		
Temporary hardness	Nil	Nil
Permanent hardness	30	40
Total hardness	30	40

MANCHESTER WATER

RAW WATER

Results of typical Chemical Analyses.

THIRLMERE AND HAWESWATER LAKES

The lake waters are subject only to slight variations and the following are typical analyses.

	Thirlmere.	Haweswater.
pH value	6.4	7.1
Colour p.p.m. platinum	11	13
Turbidity p.p.m. silica	0.5	4.2
	Parts per million.	
Total solids dried at 180° C.	30.8	32.4
Free acidity as CO ²	2.5	2.0
Alkalinity as CaCO ³	9.6	13.0
Total hardness as CaCO ³	16.3	18.8
Chlorides as Cl ²	7.0	7.2
Nitrates as N ²	0.17	0.14
Nitrites as N ²	Nil.	Nil.
Ammoniacal nitrogen, N ²	0.015	0.010
Albuminoid nitrogen, N ²	0.028	0.042
Oxygen absorbed test, 4 hours at 27° C.	0.78	0.70
Silica as SiO ²	2.0	1.5
Iron as Fe	0.10	0.13
Manganese as Mn	0.06	trace

Mixed Treated Supplies.

Lab. No.	2716	2749
pH value	7.3	7.1
colour p.p.m. platinum ...	15	13
Turbidity p.p.m. silica ...	2.6	2.4
Odour—Cold	Nil.	Nil.
Hot	Nil.	Nil.
Taste—Cold or hot	Nil.	Nil.

Analyses

Parts per million.

Total solids dried at 180° C.	40.0	40.0
Free acidity as CO ²	1.0	1.2
Total alkalinity as CaCO ³	13.0	13.0
Total hardness as CaCO ³	20.5	22.5
Chloride as Cl ²	7.2	7.0
Nitrates as N ²	0.51	0.41
Nitrites as N ²	trace	trace
Ammoniacal nitrogen, N ²	0.013	0.018
Albuminoid nitrogen, N ²	0.036	0.044
Oxygen absorbed test, 4 hours at 27° C.	0.73	0.94
Silica as SiO ²	2.0	2.0
Iron as Fe	0.16	0.13
Manganese as Mn	0.03	Nil.

Note.—Traces of nitrites, when present, are derived from the chloramine treatment.

BACTERIOLOGICAL REPORT.

Thirlmere and Haweswater Lakes and Thirlmere Aqueduct. (Mixed Waters).

Samples from the Aqueduct, collected at Babylon Lane, Adlington, have given the following results:

Total number of samples collected	6
Samples free from coliform bacteria	5
Sample containing coliform bacteria	1

The sample with coli contained 5 faecal coli per 100 mls.

There were no samples with non-faecal coli present.

PRESTON WATER.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF TOWN'S WATER.

Total Solids in Solution	6.8
Oxygen absorbed from—	
Permanganate in 15 minutes	0.046
Permanganate in 3 hours	0.096
Ammonia	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.008
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.04
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Nil

Combined Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.2
pH Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.0
Lead	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

The results of the Chemical Analysis are normal for water from this source, and there is no indication of animal pollution.

Subject to a satisfactory Bacteriological report the supply may be accepted as wholesome.

The sample was free from any objectionable odour either in the cold or on warming.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES

RAW WATER

Temperature of Water at time of collection 40°F.

Remarks: pH 6.9. Colour 13 Hazen.

Organisms growing on Yeastrel Agar, per 1 M.L. of Water

Cultivated for 3 days at 20°-22° C. 240

Cultivated for 2 days at 37° C. 0

Coli-Aerogenes Bacteria

Found in 25 m.l.

Not found in 10 m.l.

No. per 100 m.l. 1 (McCrary).

Sub-cultured to 44° C.: Positive faecal B. Coli ... 0

Organisms of the I.A.C. Group 1

Report: The results are satisfactory.

TREATED WATER

Temperature of Water at time of collection 44° F.

Remarks: pH 6.9. Colour 13 Hazen.

Organisms growing on Yeastrel Agar, per 1 M.L. of Water

Cultivated for 3 days at 20°-22° C. 22

Cultivated for 2 days at 37° C. 0

Coli-Aerogenes Bacteria

Found in 0 m.l.

Not found in 100 m.l.

No. per 100 m.l. 0 (McCrary).

Sub-cultured to 44° C.: Positive faecal B. Coli ... 0

Organisms of the I.A.C. Group 0

Report: The results are satisfactory.

FULWOOD WATER.

Bacteriological Analysis.

a. **Number of Examinations made.**

Raw Water (i.e., in the reservoirs after pre-chloramination)

Bacteriological ... 3.

Results: Probable number of " B " Coli for 100 c.c.

3 samples: Nil.

b. **Water going into supply after storage and post-chloramination.**

Bacteriological ... 14.

Results: Probable number of " B " Coli in 100 c.c.

14 samples: Nil.

Chemical Analysis (Results expressed in parts per 100,000:

				Raw water		Treated water
Total solids dried at 105° C.	...	...	...	10.4	...	11.2
Total Hardness	...	...	...	4.1	...	4.5
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	2.0	...	1.8
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	2.1	...	2.7
Combined Chlorine	...	...	...	1.5	...	1.6
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	Nil	...	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.014	...	0.004
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.011	...	0.015
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	Nil	...	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	0.05	...	0.05 ...
Oxygen Absorbed in 3 hrs. at 26.7° C.				0.226	...	0.241

Both samples, although clear, possessed a slight yellowish cast, each with a Hazen number of 30. Both were free from odour and particulate solids. Again, in each case the pH was the same, viz., 6.6.

The yields of albuminoid nitrogen and oxygen-absorptive capacity are typical of the supply, governed as they are by a sensible uptake of fermentable matter of vegetable origin. The much higher ammoniacal nitrogen figure in the raw water sample is no doubt due to the amino group of the chloramine introduced in the pre-sterilisation of the supply. There is nothing in the analysis to which objection could be taken, provided always that the bacteriological response is satisfactory.

Housing.

One thousand, three hundred and fifty-two applicants for houses still remain on the Council's list at the 31st December, 1951, an increase of one hundred and fifty-two over the preceding year. Ninety-four families were re-housed, making a total of five hundred and eighty-five since the end of hostilities. Once again, those people added to the list exceed those removed. I dealt with this ominous trend last year, so there is no need for me to re-iterate.

During the past year or so, the practice has been adopted of differential categorisation of the Housing Waiting List, and for the year under review, I submit the following:—

Group	Classification	Number
1	Single persons	57
2	Married couples over 40 years of age without children	63
3	Married couples over 40 years of age with one child ...	53
4	Married couples under 40 years of age without children	342
5	Married couples under 40 years of age with one child	415
6	Others	422

The purpose of this type of categorisation is to estimate future needs of two and three bedroom accommodation. A study of the classification reveals that Groups 1, 2 and 3 require two bedroom accommodation on a permanent basis, and a total of 173 families are involved. In addition, a proportion of Group 4 will no doubt need the same accommodation on a temporary basis, to be moved to three bedroom accommodation when the family warrants it. It therefore becomes clear that a large proportion of two bedroom accommodation is needed, and such provision would no doubt produce houses more rapidly and at a more reasonable rent. It is gratifying to know that the Council intend to proceed in this direction.

Last year, I asked for a more liberal concession from the Ministry with regard to the yearly housing allocation, with a greater proportion of houses allocated to private builders. I do not have to repeat this request. Local Authorities are now urged to press forward with their housing schemes with the knowledge that allocations will be increased if results are forthcoming. Private Builders are also encouraged to make their maximum contribution to this housing drive, which is steadily gaining momentum. Private building however is still a complicated procedure, and I would suggest a trimming of the licensing regulations, provision of land by Local Authorities for private developers, and a revision, if not abolition of development charge on new housing. The time lag between the offer of a licence to a private developer and the date of issue of the licence averages between three and six months, and if this time lag occurs during the summer months, valuable building weather is lost.

HOUSING PROGRESS.

1945 to 1951.

The following tables show (1) schemes completed, (2) schemes in progress, and (3) schemes contemplated:—

(1)	Scheme.							No. of houses.
	Penwortham and Farington	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
	Woodplumpton	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
	Lea	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
	Woodville Street, Farington	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
	School Street, Farington	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
	Penwortham	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
	Barton	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
	Samlesbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
	Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
	Woodplumpton	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
	Little Hoole	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
	Much Hoole	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
	Goosnargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
	Longton	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
	Ribchester	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
	Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—1st Contract	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
	New Longton	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
	Total							481

(2)				Houses		
				Completed	Under Construction	Not yet Started
	Sycamore Farm, Penwortham, 2nd Contract	...	...	26	12	—
	Ingol	...	...	—	26	2
	Coote Lane, Farington	...	...	—	18	—
	Airey Rural Houses	...	...	78	6	—
	Total			104	62	2

(3)	Scheme.							No. of houses.
	Sycamore Farm, Penwortham	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
	Stanifield Lane, Farington	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
	Nabs Head Lane, Samlesbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
	Total							172

OVERSPILL.

In addition, as part of the general Development Area for Penwortham 128 houses will be built in the initial stage. Some of these will be for Overspill purposes, and the remainder for general needs. During the year, building operations commenced on the first 50 houses on the Kingsfold Estate, and it is hoped to make a start on the second fifty in 1952.

OTHER HOUSING.

In addition to Council houses, houses have been constructed by the Lancashire County Council, Ministry of Works, Kingsway Housing Association (formed by The English Electric Co.) and Private Builders.

As far as other housing is concerned, the position at the 31st December, 1951, was as follows:—

				No. of houses.		
				Completed	Under Construction	Not yet Started
Constructed by						
Lancashire County Council	...	...	...	35	4	35
Ministry of Works	...	...	...	208	—	—
Kingsway Housing Association	...	...	...	176	20	2
Private Builders	...	...	...	150	32	7
				—	—	—
Totals				569	56	44
				—	—	—

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Twenty-seven houses have been demolished since 1939, twenty-one formally and six informally. Undertakings have been accepted in the case of twenty houses; in ten instances that the premises would not again be used for human habitation, and in ten instances the premises to be re-constructed. Two houses were dealt with voluntarily by the owners.

Thirty houses are officially scheduled for clearance, but are deferred until the time is more opportune to re-house the tenants.

During the year, five houses were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. Undertakings were accepted in two instances, one, that the house would not again be used for human habitation, and in the other instance, that the house would be re-constructed. One house was scheduled for demolition, and in the remaining two cases, consideration was deferred.

Eighty-six houses were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, and action was as follows:—

Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	73
---	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 7.
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owner ... Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.

Sewage Disposal.

There are outfall works in six townships, viz.: Farington, Penwortham, Lea, Ribchester, Grimsargh and Broughton. The outfall works are maintained in a satisfactory manner. In other parishes a septic tank is provided for each house, or alternatively a small sewage purification plant is installed for a group of houses.

The schemes for Grimsargh, Lea, Longton, Hutton, Much Hoole and Little Hoole, are in course of preparation.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the sewage situation in the several parishes.

Parish	Connected to Public Sewer		Septic Tank, etc.	
	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population
Barton ...	70	231	272	880
Broughton ...	50	170	105	333
Cuerdale ...	...	...	9	38
Dutton ...	...	...	68	217
Farington ...	997	3136	270	810
Goosnargh ...	...	...	343	1106
Grimsargh ...	202	623	51	178
Haighton ...	...	...	67	214
Hothersall ...	...	...	37	132
Hutton ...	...	...	399	1370
Lea ...	300	903	1273	3695
Little Hoole ...	...	...	224	680
Longton ...	...	...	1184	3825
Much Hoole ...	...	...	230	694
Penwortham ...	3552	11170	16	49
Ribchester ...	306	991	165	495
Samlesbury ...	20	60	329	926
Whittingham ...	...	..	390	4682
Woodplumpton	...	...	500	1712
TOTAL Whole District	5497	17284	5932	22036

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1951, for the Rural District of Preston in the County of Lancaster.

The new register, previously reported as being compiled, is now complete, and in this respect the assistance of H.M. District Inspector of Factories is gratefully acknowledged. Most of the factories are of a small character, and chiefly consist of those relating to Motor Car Repairs and Confectionery. There are, however, 4 Cotton Mills, 2 Paper Mills, and 2 small Iron Foundries in the Rural Area.

Defects found to exist were solely in connection with Sanitary conveniences. Working conditions generally were good.

As regards the remedying of defects, three written notices were served on the occupiers of the factories concerned, but in three instances, verbal notice of existence and advice tendered resulted in the necessary work being carried out.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I. of the Act.

1—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	17	26	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	125	35	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	6	2	—	—
TOTAL ...	148	63	3	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	4	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	6	5	—	5	—

Part VIII.—Sections 110 and 111.

Number of Outworkers in August List required by section 110 (1) (c), 1 Wearing Apparel (making, etc.).

August, 1952.

J. WALKER,
Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

Once again, public health law has undergone considerable revision. A series of Acts, Orders and Regulations have come into operation, some of which I give below:—

- a. The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, and Regulations made under the Act.
- b. The Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1951.
- c. Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951.
- d. Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Buildings) Regulations, 1951.
- e. Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Amendment Regulations, 1951.
- f. The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order 1951.

An important aspect of the new law is that which applies to ice cream. The requirements of The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951 should bring the standard of ice cream well up to those for which local authority associations have been asking for some time past.

The work of the Department has proceeded with nothing of outstanding note to record, except that difficulties in the field of Public Cleansing have continued unabated. One wonders whether we shall ever emerge from the impasse caused by rising costs and labour shortage.

Insanitary drainage in unsewered areas, especially in those Parishes situate South of the River Ribble, was a major factor in the duties performed by the District Sanitary Inspectors during 1951. The seriousness of this problem is realised by all concerned, and much ground work was done on schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal for the Parishes of Longton, Lea, Grimsargh, Hutton, Much Hoole and Little Hoole.

Action under Part II. of the Housing Act, 1936 was again limited, principally to dangerous structures.

Rodent Control has been elevated in importance, and this function is dealt with in a separate report.

I cannot conclude my report without paying tribute to the Staff for their willing co-operation at all times.

Finally, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the department during the year:—

SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS.

Inspections of dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	256
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	809
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	1
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	147
Dairies, milkshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	37
Food and food premises	...	...	...	...	154
Factories and bakehouses	...	...	...	...	63
Milk sampling	...	...	...	...	48
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	72
Hotels, Inns	...	...	...	...	20
Slaughterhouses, Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	...	8
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	4
Caravans	...	...	...	...	46
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	33
Shops	...	...	...	...	96
Closet Conversions	...	...	...	...	44
Insanitary Drainage	...	...	...	...	153
Fouled Watercourses	...	...	...	...	89
Middens	...	...	...	...	9
Anthrax	...	...	...	...	7
Swine Fever	...	...	...	...	22
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	21
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	21
Petrol Licences	...	...	...	...	7
Investigation of Applications for Council Houses	...	...	...	...	138
Other Visits	...	...	...	...	421
					2726

NOTICES.

Informal	...	...	...	...	234
Formal	...	...	...	...	20

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disinfection has been carried out in the following cases of infectious disease:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	52
Tuberculosis Removals	...	...	...	9
Cancer Deaths	...	...	...	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	3

In addition, disinfestation and disinfection have been carried out in one instance of verminous premises, and two instances on request after death, respectively.

To conclude, 78 other visits have been made relating to Infectious Disease, including 37 visits in respect of cases of Food Poisoning.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

At the end of 1951, the following position existed in the Rural District as regards sanitary conveniences:—

No. of Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	9088
No. of Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	242
No. of Pail Closets	...	...	...	1508
No. of Privy Middens	...	...	...	590
No. of Movable Ashbins	...	...	...	10517

The old bog closets and the pail closets exist mainly in the outlying parishes and in the small scattered areas.

The following conversions took place, and new sanitary accommodation was provided during 1951:—

No. of Pails converted into W.C.s	...	...	...	8
No. of Waste Water Closets converted into W.C.s	...	...	...	1

OTHER SANITARY DEFECTS DEALT WITH.

Dampness	...	...	...	...	38
Defective Ceilings	...	...	...	...	12
Defective Closet Pails	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Doors	...	...	...	...	5
Defective Floors	...	...	...	...	15
Defective Gutters	...	...	...	...	19
Defective Paving	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Roofs	...	...	...	...	19
Defective Pointing	...	...	...	...	4
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	8
Defective Walls	...	...	...	...	34
Defective W.C.s	...	...	...	...	12
Defective Windows	...	...	...	...	11
Defective Woodwork	...	...	...	...	5
Dirty Condition of Premises	...	...	...	...	4
Insanitary Drainage	...	...	...	...	153
Want of Ashtins	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Downspouts	...	...	...	...	4
Fouled Watercourses	...	...	...	...	89
Middens	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	341

CLEANSING.

The average weekly staff figure for 1950 was twenty-one. During the year under review this figure rose to twenty-two. This slight improvement in the labour situation raises hope that before long the Establishment figure of twenty-seven will be reached and maintained. If this could be achieved, then an all-round improvement in collection would result. A regular staff is all that is needed.

Thirty-three men were engaged during 1951, and thirty terminated their employment.

The weekly collection of dry refuse instituted two years ago for the urbanised Parishes of Farington, Penwortham and Lea was continued. All other parishes, including the Eaves area of Woodplumpton and the Inglewhite and Whitechapel area of Goosnargh, were on a fortnightly collection of dry refuse, and, as far as circumstances permitted, the usual weekly and fortnightly collection of pails was maintained.

Ten thousand five hundred and seventeen houses were cleared during the year.

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping. Five tips are in operation, and trained men are employed to carry out the work.

The work is carried out by direct labour, and the following table shows the amount of work done by the motor refuse vehicles from the 1st January to 31st December, 1951.

Vehicle	Type	Mileage	Petrol (galls.)	Oil (qts.)	Loads No.	Estimated weight of Refuse in Tons.	Miles per Gallon of Petrol.
A.R.N. 512	(Lewin)	3605	1394	150	664	4015	2.59
A.R.N. 858	(Ford)	7743	1763	248	585	1244	4.34
R.N. 3679	(Ford)	548	83	7	60	138	6.60
F.N.D. 324	(Fordson)	7449	854	159	539	1130	8.72
A.R.N. 181	(Karrier)	4369	596	67	381	824	7.33
C.C.K. 178	(Ford)	8027	1144	91	669	1421	7.01
C.R.N. 663	(Fordson)	7226	1105	166	555	1191	6.54
D.C.K. 893	(Fordson)	7563	1033	29	732	1609	7.32
	Totals	46530	7972	917	4185	11572	5.84

SALVAGE.

The following table analyses the weight and cash value of materials salvaged during the year 1951:—

Materials		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.		£	s.	d.
Mixed Paper ...	...	167	5	1	—	...	2196	17	6
Magazines ...	...	36	15	2	—	...	770	19	0
Newspaper ...	...	24	7	—	—	...	571	9	4
Rags ...	...	4	13	—	5	...	164	15	10
Rough Textiles ...	...	3	16	3	21	...	77	7	10
String ...	...	—	5	3	6	...	3	3	4
Aluminium ...	...	—	3	3	8	...	13	7	6
Mixed Metal ...	...	—	4	1	10	...	21	13	10
Lead ...	...	—	1	1	6	...	8	2	6
Old Electric Cable ...	...	—	1	—	—	...	3	14	8
Batteries ...	...	—	—	1	2	...	1	5	0
Bones ...	...	—	—	1	22	...	—	2	7
TOTALS ...		237	14	2	24	...	£3832	18	11

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 148 factories on the register, and their condition is satisfactory. Sixty-three inspections have been made, and three notices served.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 24 bakehouses on the register. Frequent visits are made to these places and they are on the whole kept clean.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

There have been no inspections carried out during the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND INSPECTIONS

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933:—

Fifty-five licences for Slaughtermen were issued.

There is one licensed Slaughter-house, and one licensed Knacker's Yard in the district. The premises are frequently visited, and where advice has been tendered, the response has been immediate.

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, we received 698 notices of intention to slaughter, all of which were in respect of permits granted by the Food Control Committee for home consumption, and not for sale.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Lancashire River Board assumed statutory responsibility in regard to river and stream pollution over the whole of the rural area from the 1st April, 1951.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

There are six disposal works in the Rural area, and everything is being done to maintain them in a satisfactory manner.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

The under-mentioned properties have been dealt with during the year:—

SECTION 11.

A.—Formal Action.

1. Houses Demolished.

Nil.

2. Undertakings Accepted.

(a) Houses not to be used for human habitation.

Ryding's Farm, Broad Oak Lane, Penwortham.

(b) Houses to be re-constructed.

The Cottage, Town Lane, Much Hoole.

3. Houses scheduled for Demolition.

Palmer's Wood Cottage, off Strickland's Lane,
Penwortham.

B.—Informal Action.

1. Houses demolished.

Nil.

2. Voluntary Undertakings.

Nil.

SECTION 9.

A.—Formal Action.

Nil.

B.—Informal Action.

Brookside Cottage, Marsh Lane, Longton.

Margaret House, Chapel Lane, Longton.

Broad Oak Farm, Broad Oak Lane, Penwortham.

No. 1, Eden Cottage, Woodplumpton.

No. 2, Eden Cottage, Woodplumpton.

Malley Cottage Farm, Eaves, Woodplumpton.

Slum Clearance.

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Housing Act, 1936.

The following table shows action taken in the various Parishes in the Rural District with regard to slum clearance from 1940 to 1951, inclusive:—

PARISH.			HOUSES.						
			Demolished.		Undertakings accepted following formal action.		Voluntary action by owners.		Scheduled for demolition.
			Form-ally.	Inform-ally.	Not to be used for human habitation.	Re-construction	Converted to Farm Buildings	Not to be used for human habitation.	
Barton	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
Broughton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Farington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Goosnargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Haighton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lea	...	...	4	...	I	I	...	...	2
Little Hoole	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
Longton	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	4
Much Hoole	...	...	3	...	...	2	...	I	3
Penwortham	...	...	10	...	2	2	I	...	11
Ribchester	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Samlesbury	...	...	...	I	...	I	...	...	...
Whittingham	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	...	...	4	4	3	...	...	...	2
TOTALS	...	...	21	6	10	10	I	I	30

Slum Clearance.

Action taken during the year 1951 only.

PARISH.				HOUSES.					Scheduled for demolition.	
				Demolished.		Undertakings accepted following formal action.		Voluntary action by owners.		
				<i>Form- ally.</i>	<i>Inform- ally.</i>	<i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i>	<i>Re-construction</i>	<i>Converted to Farm Buildings</i>		<i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i>
Barton	I	...	...	...	...
Broughton	
Cuerdale	
Dutton	
Farington	
Goosnargh	
Grimsargh	
Haighton	
Hothersall	
Hutton	
Lea	
Little Hoole	
Longton	
Much Hoole	I	...	...	...
Penwortham	I	...	...	...	I	
Ribchester	
Samlesbury	
Whittingham...	
Woodplumpton	
TOTALS	I	I	...	...	I	

PETROLEUM ACTS.

No. of new licences granted for storing petrol during the year—4.

No. of renewal licences granted during the year—93.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or houses let in lodgings on the Register.

TENTS, VANS, ETC.

Tents and vans were inspected and any necessary action taken under the Bye-Laws of 1937.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the period under review, the District Council continued to carry out, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, all the inspectorial duties required under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, including those duties under Section 10.

Of the 279 shops on the register, 6 having been added to the register during the year, 82 of them were visited and inspected under the delegated scheme. All the shops were found to comply with the provisions of the Act over which the Council have jurisdiction.

RAG FLOCK ACTS.

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No consent has been given by the Local Authority for the establishment of any offensive trade in the Rural area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No special action was taken with regard to smoke abatement during the year.

ANTHRAX.

Seven cases were notified during the year:—

- 2 cases at Goosnargh
- 1 case at Lea
- 1 case at Ribchester
- 1 case at Samlesbury
- 1 case at Whittingham
- 1 case at Woodplumpton.

The premises were visited, and the burning of the carcasses and disinfection under Police supervision were found to have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

SWINE FEVER.

Twenty-two cases were notified during the year:—

2 cases at Broughton
7 cases at Goosnargh
4 cases at Lea
3 cases at Little Hoole
2 cases at Longton
1 case at Much Hoole
2 cases at Whittingham
1 case at Woodplumpton

In all cases the premises were disinfected, and the infected carcasses disposed of under police supervision.

In addition, notices were received placing the following premises under Movement Restrictions:—

Edenfield Farm, Goosnargh
Bank Hall Farm, Broughton
Hoole Fold Farm, Barton
Kesters Farm, Longton
Newstead, Station Road, Little Hoole
Moorthorpe Farm, Drumacre Lane, Longton
Franklands Fold Farm, Longton
Sowerbutts Cottage, Lewth, Woodplumpton
Rose Villa, Tag Lane, Ingol
Ashbrook, Saunders Lane, Hutton
Heatherfield, Moss Lane, Little Hoole
Moss Farm, Moss Lane, Little Hoole
Cedars, Drumacre Lane, Longton
The Bungalow, Hall Lane, Longton
Moss View Farm, Moss Lane, Little Hoole
Beach Grove, Chain House Farm, Whitestake
Roach Bridge Farm, Samlesbury.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Notices were received prohibiting the movement of animals at the under-mentioned premises:—

Old House Farm, Catforth, Woodplumpton
Godson House Farm, Catforth, Woodplumpton
Vine House, Lea Town
Whittle Hill Farm, Woodplumpton
Raikes Farm, Lea Town
Brookfield Farm, Bartle
Bostock's Farm, Ingol
Cottam Lodge Farm, Cottam

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk supply—action taken with regard to:—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

At the 31st December, 1951, there were 37 registered milk distributors in the area, operating from:—

(a) own dairies in the district	...	...	...	...	10
(b) dairy farms in the district	...	...	...	...	2
(c) premises outside the district	...	...	...	...	9
(d) milk shops, not being dairies in the district	...	...	...	...	16

The number of dairies on the register was ten. 37 visits were made to dairies and generally the standard was found to be satisfactory.

In addition, and as far as unofficial records show, there were 98 producer-retailers operating in the Rural area.

The following dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) have been issued during the period under review:—

(i) **The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.**

Tuberculin Tested milk	...	...	...	...	...	39
Accredited milk	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(ii) **The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949.**

Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	...	...	44
Sterilised milk	...	...	...	...	...	9

There was no refusal or revocation of a licence for graded milk during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938.

Two notifications of tuberculous milk were forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who arranged for veterinary inspections to be carried out at the farms concerned.

Prior to this, notices restraining Sale of Milk had been served on the occupiers concerned, by this Authority. Copies of such notices were immediately sent to the Area Milk Officer of the Ministry of Food.

As a result of the investigations of the Divisional Veterinary Inspector, one cow was reported for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

MILK SAMPLING

The following samples of milk were taken, and subjected to the minit test for dirt, with the following results:—

No. of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	20
„ „ found to be clean	...	...	...	...	...	20
„ „ very slightly contaminated	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ slightly contaminated	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ found to be dirty	...	...	...	...	...	—

Forty-eight samples have been taken for the Bacterial and Methylene Blue Reductase tests, with the following results:—

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	33
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	15

Nine samples have been taken in the district for the presence of tubercle bacilli:—

Results ... 1 Positive. 8 Negative.

Nine samples of Pasteurised milk were taken and subjected to the Phosphatase test, with the following results:—

Samples sufficiently heat treated	...	...	...	...	8
Samples insufficiently heat treated	...	...	...	...	1

SHOPS.

All shops and premises coming within the purview of Section 13, or registered under Section 14, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, have been inspected, and though the general standard is fairly satisfactory, such premises will be kept under constant review.

The total number of shops on the register is 115, and during the year 154 inspections were carried out.

Ninety of the above premises are registered for the manufacture and sale or storage and sale, of ice cream. This figure includes 14 new registrations during the year.

Eighty-eight retailers sell pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

Sampling of Ice Cream.

Thirteen samples of ice cream were taken, and submitted to bacteriological tests. As a result of the tests these samples were placed in the following grades:—

Grade 1	...	...	...	8 satisfactory.
Grade II	...	...	...	4 fairly satisfactory.
Grade III	...	...	...	Nil.
Grade IV	...	...	...	1 bad.

Every endeavour was made by visits, advice and admonition to encourage the production of a clean and satisfactory product.

HAWKERS.

Hawkers of Meat, or Meat Food Products, Fish, Fruit and Vegetables, and their premises situate in the Rural area, are registered under Section 115 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.

No. of registered hawkers	...	...	...	19
No. of registered premises	...	...	...	8

The following is a summary of the Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

Description.	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
12 tins Evaporated Milk	—	2	1	24	4
2 tins Bilberries					
1 tin Chicken					
1 tin Luncheon Meat					
1 tin Italian Cooked Ham					
3 tins French Cooked Ham					
4 tins Unsweetened Milk					
3 tins Braised Rabbit					
3 tins Bananas					
11 tins Tomatoes					
4 tins Pineapples					
3 tins Apricots					
2 tins Fruit Salad					
1 tin Strawberries					
3 tins Pork Brawn					
1 tin Boiled Ham					
2 tins Pork Luncheon Meat					
6 tins Boneless Ham					
30 dozen Eggs					
Apricot Pulp					
Butter					
Mixed Nuts					
Jellied Pork					
Total Weight ...	—	2	1	24	4

Wherever possible, the condemned foodstuff was diverted to animal feeding.

PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS.

The following schedule gives the Playing Fields provided in the Rural District, and an indication of the area on each field available for games:—

Situation	Whole area	Area for games Area let off for					
		Acres		Grazing	Ploughing		
Barton	5	...	5	...	—	...	—
Broughton	5	...	5	...	—	...	—
Farington	10½	...	10½	...	—	...	—
Grimsargh	12	...	6	...	6	...	—
Hurst Grange, Penwortham	16½	...	12	...	4½	...	—
Hutton	7	...	7	...	—	...	—
Lea	16½	...	4½	...	12	...	—
Little Hoole	4	...	4	...	—	...	—
Longton	6	...	6	...	—	...	—
Much Hoole	5	...	5	...	—	...	—
New Longton	9	..	5½	...	—	...	3½
Queensway, Penwortham	5	...	5	...	—	...	—
Penwortham Hall ...	18½	...	12½	...	6	...	—
Tardy Gate	5½	...	5½	...	—	...	—
Woodplumpton	6½	...	2½	...	4	...	—
Totals	132	...	96	...	32½	...	3½

During the year a great deal of maintenance work has been carried out, and in most instances those parts of the field which were free were brought up to pre-war standard.

The work of the Department also included the planting of trees and shrubs on Housing Estates, and mowing the grass verges.

Rodent Report

STAFF.

During the year one Rodent Officer was employed.

SEWERS.

The whole of the sewerage system of the district was tested baited in May, when 10 per cent. of the manholes on the main sewerage system were baited with sausage rusk and bread mash. No infestation was found, and in consequence, a certificate of exemption was received valid until the following year.

SEWAGE WORKS.

The Council's Sewage Works at Penwortham, Grimsargh, Lea, Ribchester and Farington were treated periodically, and infestation kept down to a minor level.

TIPS.

The Council's refuse tips at Penwortham, Whittingham, Ribchester and Hoole were also treated periodically with excellent results, but though minor infestation only now exists, regular visits will be made to these tips in the coming year, and any signs of infestation dealt with accordingly.

PREMISES AND INFESTATION.

Type of Property	(I) Total No. of Properties	(II) No. of Properties inspected during 1951 as a result of :		(III) No. of Properties found to be infested with rats (under (II))		(IV) No. of Prop- erties under (II) found to be seriously infested by mice.	(V) No. of infes- ted Properties under (III) & (IV) treated by L.A.	(VI) No. of notices served under Section 4 for :	
		NOTIFICATION	OTHERWISE	MAJOR	MINOR			TREATMENT	STRUCTURAL WORKS, ie. PROOFING
Local Authority ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dwelling Houses ..	10412	47	787	...	27	...	27	...	...
Agricultural ...	850	3	94	1	11	...	Under control of L.C.A.E.C.	...	...
All other (including Business & Industrial.	457	11	116	7	13	...	20	...	...
Totals ...	11719	61	997	8	51	...	47	...	...

No. of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following
 issue of notice under Section 4 None
 Legal Proceedings None
 No. of "block" control schemes carried out None
 Eight of the major type were reduced to minor, and re-treatment is to be made.
 Fifty-one of the minor type were cleared, and no post baits were taken. (See Table
 --Column III.)

The house-to-house search instituted in accordance with instructions received
 from the Divisional Rodent Officer was continued throughout the year in all
 Parishes.

BAIT.

The bait used was sausage rusk and stale bread mash.

POISONS.

The poisons used were Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic.

To conclude, much research is being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries where new methods and poisons are being investigated. A close liaison is maintained with the Ministry through the No. 9 Workable Area Committee, comprising of the Boroughs of Preston and Chorley, the Urban Districts of Leyland, Walton-le-Dale, Adlington, Withnell, Fulwood and Longridge, and the Rural Districts of Preston, Chorley and Garstang.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Report of Building Inspector

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a Report on the buildings dealt with during the year 1951.

The table below shows the number and situation of new houses which were erected:—

Parish					Dwelling houses erected
Barton ...	...	...	...	...	3
Farington	...	...	...	...	4
Goosnargh	...	...	...	...	1
Hutton...	...	...	...	...	1
Lea ...	...	...	...	...	20
Longton	...	...	...	...	31
Penwortham	...	...	...	...	65
Ribchester	...	...	...	...	5
Woodplumpton	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL...					131

The following visits have been made in connection with the erection of houses by private enterprise:

Inspection of Site	...	...	...	...	178
Inspection of Foundations	...	...	...	...	106
Inspection of Drainage	...	...	...	...	202
Inspection on Completion	...	...	...	...	117

In addition, 1,052 visits were made to the Council's Housing Estates, 62 inspections were carried out in connection with Civil Building licences, and there were 855 miscellaneous visits.

TOWN PLANNING.

The Lancashire County Council is the Local Planning Authority for the Rural District, and under delegated powers, 436 applications to develop were received. Of these, 203 applications were classified as permitted development under Town Planning.

The Council considered these applications with the following results:—

Permission granted	...	...	...	398
Refused	...	...	...	26
Deferred	...	...	...	7
Withdrawn	...	...	...	5

H. COLLIER,
Building Inspector.

Report on Water Supply.

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

This report is a continuation of the report submitted by the Medical Officer of Health, and deals solely with the work of the Department during the year 1951.

The number of connections shows a decrease, and the number of extensions an increase, compared with the preceding year—this you will notice by the following figures:—

Connections	...	...	...	1950	...	157
Connections	...	...	...	1951	...	138
Extensions of Mains	...	...	...	1950	...	1745 yds.
Extensions of Mains	...	...	...	1951	...	2126 yds.

The following table shows the connections made in the various Parishes during the year:—

PARISH	Houses	Lime Taps	Troughs	Stand-pipes	Farm Buildings	Garages	Piggery
FARINGTON	13	5	1	—	1	—	—
HUTTON	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
LEA	21	11	—	—	—	—	—
LITTLE HOOLE ...	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
LONGTON	5	1	2	1	—	—	—
MUCH HOOLE ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
PENWORTHAM ...	55	4	1	1	—	—	—
RIBCHESTER	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
SAMLESBURY	—	1	1	—	2	2	1
TOTALS	95	25	7	5	3	2	1

Extensions to Water Mains for the year are as follows:—

Parish	2"	3"	4"	5"	9"
		<i>Yds.</i>			
Farington	47	160	...	424	...
Lea ... ..	...	113	140	...	...
Hutton	116	...	..	...	...
Penwortham	140	521	16	124	325
Totals	303	794	156	548	325

In addition, general routine maintenance of the Undertaking was carried out, and the following general summary gives a brief survey of the work entailed:—

No. of taps re-washed	...	...	...	...	...	487
No. of Service Pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	109
No. of Mains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	26
No. of Ball Hydrants repaired	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Ball Hydrants converted to screw-down type	...	...	...	...	...	24
No. of new Hydrants installed	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of Meters changed	...	...	...	...	...	34
No. of Ferrules cleaned	...	...	...	...	...	20
Length of Mains scraped	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Visits to Consumers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	334

Further, despite labour difficulties, regular flushing was carried out in every Parish served by the Undertaking. In addition, test surveys for bursts were carried out in the Parishes of Hutton, Longton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole, Penwortham and Samlesbury.

Numerous incidental jobs were carried out on the Council's Housing Estates.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Water Engineer.

